

Added Authorizations in Special Education (AASE) Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Must holders of Learning Handicapped Specialist and Education Specialists in Mild/Moderate earn the Autism Spectrum Disorders Added Authorization?*

No it is not required unless the individual is providing services in the area of autism or is required for employment. An individual not required by assignment or employment to hold the authorization has the option of earning this and other authorizations.

2. *Will the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Added authorization and the ASD authorization included on the new preliminary Education Specialists be listed in the same way on the Education Specialist documents?*

The Commission plans for the authorizations to be alike but will have different 'codes' in our computer system so we can differentiate between the ones earned through the AASE and those earned through the new preliminary program.

3. *Will the AASEs show up on the Commission's Credential Look-up and Renewal website?*

Yes the Added Authorizations will show up on the website. Some may appear within the individual's Education Specialist Credential document information or some as a separate document depending when the added authorization was requested (initial issuance of credential, renewing a credential, individual holds a life special education credential).

4. *What is the authorization for the AASE in Deaf-Blind?*

The deaf-blind added authorization authorizes the holder to conduct assessments, provide instruction, and special education related services to individuals with a primary disability of deaf-blind as defined in subsection 300.8(c)(2) of Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart A, across the continuum of special education program options at the grade and age levels authorized by the required prerequisite credential.

Specifically, subsection 300.8(c)(2) of Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart A states: "Deaf-blindness means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness."

The Commission will soon be posting a link to Title 34 on the Special Education Website.

4. *Are added authorizations a stepping stone toward the full Education Specialist credentials?*

The AASE can be a stepping stone to the full credentials. An individual would have the option of working with a program sponsor to complete the remaining content for the full credential authorization.

5. *Who is offering the new Added Authorization in Special Education Programs?*

The Commission is reviewing the Transition Plans submitted by program sponsors concerning the type of AASEs they plan to offer as well as the beginning date that coursework will be offered. The list will be available on the Commission's Special Education webpage and the Approved Programs webpage in the near future.

6. *Can an individual earn two AASEs at the same time?*

If an individual completes the requirements for more than one authorization, he or she would be recommended for all authorizations.

7. *Can an individual obtain an AASE other than at a college or university?*

Approved programs sponsors include colleges, universities, school districts, and county offices of education approved to sponsor educator preparation programs.

8. *Can the holder of a general education teaching credential earn an added authorization in special education?*

No.